

On the Position Paper of the Reich Association for Dowsing

And the report of the S.D.

The Reich Association for Dowsing asks the Reichsführer-SS and head of the German Police in its position paper from 10/6/38 to take measures for consistent regulation of dowsing in the Greater German Reich. In response to their rationale as well as to the assessment of the Main Security Office I take the following position:

I. Importance of the Dowsing Problem

When one looks at the entire dowsing rod question, one must ascertain through impartial objective evaluation that it does not deal only with a scientifically interesting but also a practically very important problem, for which rigorous research in various directions could hold great importance. It must therefore be apparent that up to now this problem has not received general recognition and until a few years ago no thorough scientific treatment, although in the old and new dowsing literature it becomes clear that numerous appearances in the area of dowsing are over and over discovered anew; a fact which authoritatively points to a real background to the dowsing rod phenomenon. In my opinion, guilt for this neglect lies with the following circumstances:

a) Disputes over responsibility in such questions between geologists and physics on the one hand and between physiologists and biologists on the other; b) The powerlessness in addressing the research work relate to dowsing rods; c) The lack of knowledge regarding the manifold sources of error in dowsing which exist among dowzers and scientists and continue to this day, which very frequently prevent faultless results.

The described state of affairs, not currently pleasant, does not however in any way justify the conclusion that the entire question can claim neither scientific nor practical value.

It is necessary, in the investigation of the dowsing rod problem to differentiate between two separate fields of work:

- 1) The scientific clarification of the causes and flow of the dowsing reaction.
- 2) The determination of a precise method for practical dowsing work to enable flawless, correct results.

The first-mentioned field of work must essentially concentrate on answering the following three questions:

- a) What is the physical form of energy that causes the dowsing reaction? The most important of the three questions, as its complete answer can provide for the necessary essentials in control procedures.
- b) In which why does this energy form work on the physiological receiving apparatus of the dowser?
- c) How far and wide can psychological factors influence (for example, disturb) the action flow of the physical-physiological dowsing reaction?

Both fields of work must operate parallel to one another, inspire and stimulate one another with their results. The ideal scientific accomplishment, which would bring one explanation for the entire array of questions, and the practical-scientific importance of precise and reliable dowsing work stands without a doubt. The essential condition however for the employment and perpetual utilization of dowsing rods in the specific contemplable branches of economic life is dowsing work based on reliable and well-established methods, which in turn requires a well-trained dowsing community educated based on consistent norms.

II. The Current Status of Dowsing in the Greater German Reich

1) The Organization.

a) It is correct that it is not possible to exercise strict control over the greater part of dowzers or those who believe themselves to be dowzers. Only a small percentage is organizationally document in the Reich Association for Dowsing. Of these only some belong to the so-named "Professional Branch" of the Association. The precondition for admission is taking and passing a so-named Dowser Test (Association Test). The entire association is divided in regional groups and these groups further divided in by region.

b) Training and Examination.

There are tested and untested members in the association. Twice a year, in spring and fall, the opportunity is provided to take part in a course lasting about 8 days held for professional branch candidates and "advanced students". In the theoretical part of these courses, primarily geological and hydrological topics are discussed and Montanist little or not at all, nor is oil geology discussed. The practical (dowsing) portion consists of a dowsing search for water perhaps also for a geological fault. An absolute obligation for passing an exam exists only for professional branch candidates. Only members of the professional branch are proposed in the first place for the execution of assignments; there is however no obstacle to untested members of the association being entrusted with dowsing work.

On the assessment and valuation of such tests the following can be said:

a) The methodology of the test is only geared toward geological and hydrological viewpoints; it gives however no benchmark for the quality of dowsing technique of the individual, that is to say the manner and reliability of his dowsing, the dowsing sensitivity, the ability to critically assess a dowsing finding and properly interpret dowsing reactions as well as prevention of errors. Yet precisely on these factors hang the future success and reputation of dowsing. The individual nature and technique of the dowser is thus taken little or not at all into consideration in such tests.

b) The training of the dowzers through the Association is currently too short, in terms of methodology, one-sided and sparse. The practical exercises lack systematics and consideration of sources of errors. The one-sidedness of the training methods exists in the

fact that practically only after the treatment of the so-called “mental attitude” is worked through, the psychological factors of dowsing are only discussed at the discretion of the trainer. Thereby an entire body of dowsers is trained with no knowledge whatsoever of the dangers of a great many sources of error in dowsing and who are subject to self-deception, above all in regard to the nature of the findings. The mentioned procedure however takes the ground from under every consideration of physical tools and control procedures. Little or not at all are those dowsers promoted who merely work with physical expressions of power as biological indicators. This method of dowsing makes use of only physical methods and is therefore amenable to a physical control method. Considered as a whole the training and testing methods of the association are to a great extent in need of renewal and reform.

2) The Services of Dowsers

a) In research.

There has been no scarcity of attempts to tackle the dowsing problem and its scientific investigation from a physiological or psychological viewpoint. A noteworthy success has not been determined. For the clarification of the physical side of the dowsing problem, there has served the work of the last 7 years proposed by J. Wimmer and carried out together with Dr. Wüst in the Department for Experimental Biology of Anatomy in Munich (Prof. Romeis). A series of physical characteristics of the dowsing agent has been discovered and through systematic research and keys the state of affairs is such that the dowsing rod problem can be considered practically solved. The relevant work in this topic of research were published in the Roux Archive of Developmental Mechanics vol. 131, 1934; Issue 3; in the Journal of Dowsing Rod Research vol 17-21 (1936 – 1940). In this journal are included also the contributions of senior teacher Dr. Wendler of Erlangen to the physical aspect of the dowsing rod problem.

With regard to the investigation of the dowsing-rod-influencing energy form, the work has already thrived in the early stage and the dowsing rod question is thereby shifted from the realm of the “occult” to that of the physically comprehensible. Unfortunately, these facts are in part hushed up, in part attacked by the opponents of dowsing rods, particularly from the circle of physicists and geologists. Valid counterevidence, which could refute the body of facts presented, has yet to be produced.

b) In the practical use of the dowsing rod.

The fact that in hundreds of cases positive, well-recognized dowsing successes have been achieved can no longer be disputed by a hired observer who is objective to the issue. The reports of success enclosed in the position paper of the Reich Association have the disadvantage that in none of the cases were place and time of the dowsing work stated, the name of the dowser is missing and no eyewitnesses are named, and as a result an immediate review without prior inquiry to the Reich Association is impossible. Already for several decades, the main area of work for dowsers has been the search for water. In this area most of the experiences – good as well as bad – have been made.

Furthermore, It is true that the dowsing rod is useful for prehistoric and archaeological research. It has been repeatedly proven - I refer here to my own experiences. Hollow cavities, natural caves can be established quite well with the dowsing rod.

It is also true that dowsers have been used with satisfactory results at the sites of deep mines and tunnels, rail and canal cuttings, that is in cases where the damaging effects of water running underground could be prevented in time. Mineral and thermal springs have been successfully found by dowsers. Cultural building authorities, who are anxious to save time and money, have for years made use of dowsing technical methods for their drainage and dewatering projects with obvious success. Dowsers have been consulted in cases of electrical works and fire insurance in order to eliminate the risk of lightning for overhead power lines and buildings through the proper grounding of lightning rods in groundwater streams. The results in this area have not failed to materialize.

The search for underground water streams usually involves the determination of the depth of the rivulets, as the client will want to know for calculations and financing how deep must be dug or drilled. Dr. Osswald compared the estimates of depth by from reliable dowsers with the actual drilling depth in 442 cases and found 61.5% of the estimates were within 2 meters from the actual depth and 17.8% were 2-5 meters from the actual depth. If the estimates of depth were in terms of their accuracy just a game of chance or the result of a guess with “good luck” or - as Dr. Wasmund thinks - “special abilities of individual persons in rare moments”, then the law of probability, which is brought up so often in the judgment of dowsing successes, would yield only 10% strikes rather than 61.5%. Here is good evidence not only for the usefulness of the service of reliable dowsers, but also for the reality of the dowsing question in general.

Trained dowsers can be demonstrably helpful to geologists in the search for disturbances in rock (faults); it is fundamentally possible – in my own experience – to determine accurately rock types and rock formations.

The use of the dowsing rod in the search for mining materials (ores, coal, salt, oil) has yet to be explored thoroughly. We do know that in the Middle Ages and later until the start of the 18th Century dowsing rods were used extensively in the mining of ores and we can conclude from this that the experiences were good. But already in the second half of the 18th century, dowsers lost their rapidly-attained significance as mining officials. Based on my own experience, I can ascertain that for dowsers with sufficient dowsing sensitivity and the best training in the “physical” aspects, even the truly difficult assignments which they are given by the mine can be solved successfully.

In the service and work domains outlined here, obviously only a qualified, reliably working and best-trained dowsers could engage successfully. Dr. Wasmund reveals a lack of expertise and experience when he claims: “according to the state of the dowsing rod question up to this point, the dowsing rod is scientifically and practically utterly useless.”

3) The Failures - .

They are unfortunately facts, which cannot be cast aside by referencing failures in other professions. Their causes are manifold, primarily however they can be found in the circumstances described below:

- a) Lack of dowsing technical education and experience;
- b) Imagination and obstination of many dowsers;
- c) Lack of any kind of control or supervision for the majority of dowsers – even the Reich Association since its genesis has been unable to effect change in this regard -;
- d) The indifference or rather nearly only hostile stance of that circle of natural scientists, whose responsibility it should be to acquaint themselves with the world of dowsing rod research and themselves drive the research forward;
- e) The seductive material advantage for dowsers or “also dowsers” of contracts which entice them to adopt opinions which do not arise from their technical dowsing ability.

The imperative task of the hour is to work energetically on eliminating the abovementioned deficiencies. Nobody benefits from the so often repeated references to the failures and existing defects by the opponents of the dowsing issue nor from the damage stemming from it and the situation is thereby not improved. The only right way forward is to sift and cleanly separate dowsers according to guidelines based on the findings from the investigation of the dowsing problem up to this point.

III. The Outlook of the Scientific Community on the Dowsing Rod Problem – the Opponents of Dowsing

1) Prof. Wasmund claims: “All experiments of various expert scientists with dowsers have had negative findings”. This may in itself be true; however, in the process and result of an experiment with dowsers as in any experimental science, the entire system is of decisive importance. I notice here that the “experiments” by various expert scientists (physicists, geologists, physicians) carried out in the last years which have been brought to my attention, already in their construction as well as in the manner in which they are carried out are not consistent with experimental investigations which should be precise in nature. They work – likely from a lack of expertise – on the false equation “Dowser = Dowser” and fail to take into account so many sources of error. It is therefore completely unjustified to base such a far-reaching judgment, the complete rejection of the dowsing phenomenon, on the results of such experiments. These experiments have contributed nothing to the investigation of the dowsing problem up to this point.

2) Prof. Wasmund further claims:

That geologists are those who are most interested in finding an explanation for the dowsing problem. This may well be quite true for a number of geologists; however, the official geology community is currently denying any kind of funding even for serious dowsing research.

3) In the assessment of the S.D. (Page 8) “another expert” – name withheld – speaks out on the topic of dowsers and the dowsing question. His opinion, that the dowsing reaction is probably triggered by a physical factor, is right. He even admits that dowsers in this manner could probably find “something”. For this reason, the following remarks are incomprehensible, as despite the admitted physical aspect of the dowsing problem he assigns the responsibility for the resolution in a very one-sided way to psychologists or psychiatrists (!?). Finally he accuses the dowsers even of deliberate deception and seems thereby to consider a scientific explanation for the problem unnecessary.

He may well characterize individual charlatans, dilettantes, and incompetents in this way, but his generalization of all the dowsing community is absolutely inadmissible.

From the statements of this source it is not shown to what extent he can support his claims with evidence. In general the statements of this “expert” arouse the impression that he only holds unclear perceptions of the entirety of the dowsing rod question and does not know of the scientific research into this question and its results up to this point.

- 4) Also in the valuation of the actual practical success of dowzers, physicists and geologists take a hostile attitude, usually with reference to the so-called Laws of Probability.
- a) When Prof. Gerlach of Munich claims that 90% of the German Lowlands are lands containing water, when Hocheder indicates that water lies beneath at least 2/3 of the surface of Bavaria, these claims may be in themselves true. It is not permissible to seek to thereby devalue the successes and operations of dowzers in these lands to the point where one says that every drilling will (with 90% or 67% probability) strike water, that there is no art here in finding water, that dowzers are therefore unnecessary.

These claims ignore the actual conditions and pay no heed to the critical aspects which are important to one whether settler, farmer or factory, when he arranges based purely on economic considerations for a search for water using a dowser, namely the depth of the stream and the quantity of water to be acquired. From experience, it is clear that water is not found in every drilling or digging site nor at any random depth. Nor can it be reckoned that every water stream found through dowsing techniques will really lead to adequate amounts of water. When therefore an experienced dowser finds a stream of water at a good depth and with sufficient bulk, when thereupon the following drilling confirms it, this is a success whose worth does not conform to the laws of probability.

- b) When mining councilor Werner lists the failed drillings based on dowser advice for potash salt, oil or water, these facts are certainly evidence for the ineptitude of the dowzers who worked there, but not reason to describe the dowsing rod as “practically utterly useless”.

All in all, it would be in the interest of the issue and the mentioned scientific disciplines, if their representatives did not just level negative criticism at the entire complex of the dowsing rod question, but instead provided more positive and helpful work in this area.

- c) The necessity arises to more closely outline the concept of

“Experts in the Field of Dowsing”

Experts are not physicists, geologists, physicians because of their professional knowledge, which they carry over to the fully novel dowsing phenomenon and because they with dogmatic prejudice and great one-sidedness believe themselves capable of judging the complex character of the dowsing question. As long as the representatives of the mentioned disciplines concern themselves with the dowsing question, it must be demanded of them that they concern themselves with the literature on this topic, above all and primarily grapple with the already mentioned scientific treatment of the dowsing problem in an objective way and finally seek to further the research through their own experimental investigations into the dowsing rod problem.

IV. Proposals for the consistent regulation of dowsing

1) Organization

- a) The Reich Association for Dowsing will be reconstructed and assume control over all German dowsing activity.
- b) Dowsers acting outside the Reich Association are now forbidden from taking on any dowsing work which is paid or involves responsibility.
- c) Also to members of the Association is every paid activity prohibited until they complete a longer lasting training and have demonstrated their skill through one or several sectors of dowsing work.

2) Training and Testing Programs.

- a) For the theoretical and technical training of dowsers, more courses will be given as required, which will be carried out with a methodological structure and in close relation to the progress of the scientific investigation into the dowsing problem.
- b) The completion of the training will consist of a thorough examination aligned with the specialty chosen by the dowser.
- c) Training and testing will be overseen by the Reich Association. This itself reports to the Teaching and Research Association "The Ahnenerbe".

3) Police Recognition

Police and state recognition will be solicited for the Dowsing Organization constructed in this way.

4) Execution of Public and Private Dowsing Work.

- a) As part of the ongoing training, dowsers will first be permitted to conducted trial work (unpaid) in the areas of water seeking, mining and oil seeking.
- b) During the practical testing period a dowser has permission to carry out private or official assignments in accordance with the statement of the Reich Interior Minister of June 1937 and the new mining law.
- c) Should the circumstances result in a need to employ experienced dowsers in the areas of economy and the armed forces before the final organizational regulation, I propose that through common agreement with the "Ahnenerbe" transitional provisions be made to determine for this period the selection of dowsers and their field of work.

5) Leadership of the Scientific Research

- a) The scientific investigation of the dowsing rod question will be in all its branches under the control of the Teaching and Research Association "The Ahnenerbe".
- b) In all important questions which are affected by the practical use of the dowsing rod in the various areas of the economy, etc., particularly in all cases which deal with the prohibition or release of a book or other publication on dowsing or pendula, the Department of "Applied Geology" of the Teaching and Research Association "The Ahnenerbe" should always be consulted for the purpose of assessment. (Department!)
- c) The reorganization of the dowsing community will be announced to the representatives of the branches of science: physics, geophysics, geology, mining and medicine, as well as the Leader of the "German Society for Combating Deficiencies in Healthcare". – They should be appealed to cease as such all subjective and baseless attacks against the dowsing issue as well as against

those members of the German nation who occupy themselves with it in a serious scientific or practical way.

- d) In order that objective work in dowsing research and practice be able to proceed henceforth without impediment, articles and notes appearing in journals and newspapers which address the dowsing problem and its adherents in a subjective and aggressive way should be stopped or submitted to the Research Center for "Applied Geology" in the "Ahnenerbe" for prior review. On the other hand, intensive collaboration with representatives of the named branches of science is desirable, such as a fresh and friendly exchange of ideas on the topics in question. Objective and only objective criticism would be shunned by no serious dowsing researcher.

The Head of the Department for "Applied Geology"

In the "Ahnenerbe"

Jos. Wimmer

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